

## Introduced by Senator Machado

February 22, 2005

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An act to amend Sections 4293 and 4294 of the Public Resources Code, relating to fire protection.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 686, as introduced, Machado. Fire protection: transmission lines.

Existing law requires, generally, a person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains an electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land to maintain a clearance of a specified distance between all vegetation and all conductors that are carrying electric current, as specified. Existing law requires old decadent trees, among other trees, to be felled, cut, or trimmed, as provided.

This bill would delete old decadent trees from that requirement. The bill would make a clarifying change and various technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4293 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 4293. Except as otherwise provided in Sections 4294 to 4296,
- 4 inclusive, any person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains
- 5 ~~any~~ *an* electrical transmission or distribution line upon any
- 6 mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, brush-covered land,
- 7 or grass-covered land shall, during ~~such~~ times and in ~~such~~ areas

1 as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency  
2 ~~which that~~ has primary responsibility for the fire protection of  
3 ~~such the~~ areas, maintain a clearance of the respective distances  
4 ~~which that~~ are specified in this section in all directions between  
5 all vegetation and all conductors ~~which that~~ are carrying electric  
6 current:

7 (a) For any line ~~which that~~ is operating at 2,400 or more volts,  
8 but less than 72,000 volts, four feet.

9 (b) For any line ~~which that~~ is operating at 72,000 or more  
10 volts, but less than 110,000 volts, six feet.

11 (c) For any line ~~which that~~ is operating at 110,000 or more  
12 volts, 10 feet.

13 In ~~every~~ each case, ~~such the~~ distance shall be sufficiently great  
14 to furnish the required clearance at any position of the wire; or  
15 conductor when the adjacent air temperature is 120 degrees  
16 Fahrenheit, or less. Dead trees, ~~old decadent or~~ rotten trees, trees  
17 weakened by decay or disease, and trees or portions thereof that  
18 are leaning toward the line ~~which and~~ may contact the line from  
19 the side, or may fall on the line, shall be felled, cut, or trimmed  
20 ~~so as~~ to remove ~~such this~~ hazard. The director or the agency  
21 ~~which that~~ has primary responsibility for the fire protection of  
22 ~~such these~~ areas may permit exceptions from the requirements of  
23 this section ~~which that~~ are based upon the specific circumstances  
24 involved.

25 SEC. 2. Section 4294 of the Public Resources Code is  
26 amended to read:

27 4294. ~~A clearing to obtain line clearance~~ *Minimum line*  
28 *clearance, as specified in Section 4293,* is not required if  
29 self-supporting aerial cable is used. Forked trees, leaning trees,  
30 and any other growth ~~which that~~ may fall across the line and  
31 break it shall, however, be removed.